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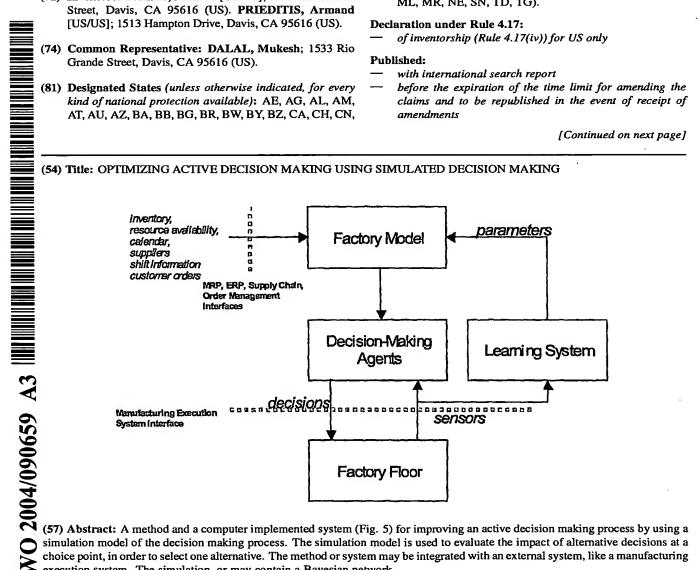
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Declaration under Rule 4.17:



simulation model of the decision making process. The simulation model is used to evaluate the impact of alternative decisions at a choice point, in order to select one alternative. The method or system may be integrated with an external system, like a manufacturing execution system. The simulation, or may contain a Bayesian network.

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Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S.: 706/21			
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Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)			
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where a		Relevant to claim No.
х	US 5461699 (ARBABI et al.) 24 Oct. 1995 (24, 11,	1995), column 3, lines 39-66, column	1, 10, 11, 20
Y, E	4, lines 1-18 US 6725208 B1(HARTMAN et al.) 20 Apr. 2004 (20, 04, 2004), claims 33 and 34 2, 5, 12, 15		2, 5, 12, 15
Further	r documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.	See patent family annex.	
	pecial categories of cited documents:	"T" later document published after the inter	mational filing date or priority
"A" document	t defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of relevance	date and not in conflict with the applica principle or theory underlying the inves	nion but cited to understand the
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